

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03868 230814Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USINFO WASHDC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
CINCEUR
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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USINFO FOR VOA/PN, PGM/RC, PGM/PPE, EU

NAPLES ALSO FOR INTAF

E.O. 11652 N/A
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SUBJ: TURKEY-NATO WEEKEND PRESS REPORTS

REF: ANKARA 3822 (DTG 181300Z MAY 78)
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 03868 230814Z

1. PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT MAY 18 BRIEFED REPUBLICAN PEOPLES
PARTY (RPP) PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS ON RESULTS OF HIS EUROPEAN
TOUR. MOST PAPERS MAY 19 CARRIED HEADLINE THAT TURKEY "WILL
NOT BE CRUSHED UNDER THE PRESSURE OF THE EMBARGO." ACCORDING
TO PRESS, ECEVIT MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS TO RPP CAUCUS IN
COURSE OF HIS BRIEFING:

A. REGARDING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE EMBARGO: "I FIND IT REALISTIC TO TAKE STEPS AS IF THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY WILL NEVER BE LIFTED. IN THE EVENT IT WILL NOT BE LIFTED, WE MUST TAKE STEPS TO PROVE TO OURSELVES AND TO THE WORLD THAT WE ARE A NATION THAT WILL NOT BE CRUSHED UNDER THE PRESSURE OF THE EMBARGO. I BELIEVE WE CAN DO IT."

B. ON TURKEY'S "NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT": "IN GENERAL, IT IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH OUR NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT. THIS MUST BE DONE WHETHER OR NOT THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED." ALSO, "CHANGES IN THE WORLD, CHANGES IN OUR REGION, AND CHANGES IN MILITARY TECHNOLOGY, TOGETHER WITH THE NEED TO ACCELERATE TURKEY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HAVE CREATED A SELF-EVIDENT NEED FOR A NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT AND A DEFENSE POLICY GEARED TO IT ... THE CHANGE IN OUR DEFENSE POLICY IS ALSO BOUND TO BE REFLECTED IN FOREIGN POLICY TOO."

C. ON RELATIONS WITH NATO: "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE AMERICAN EMBARGO IS ONE ELEMENT IN OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD NATO."

2. MOST MAJOR TURKISH DAILIES CARRIED REPORTS MAY 22 OF DEFENSE MINISTER ISIK'S ADDRESS TO NATO'S DEFENSE POLICY COMMITTEE (DPC). THESE PRESS REPORTS STRESSED THAT TURKEY WOULD NOT WITHDRAW FROM NATO EVEN IF THE EMBARGO CONTINUED. HOWEVER, ISIK WAS REPORTED TO HAVE WARNED THAT THE MAIN-
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PAGE 03 ANKARA 03868 230814Z

TENANCE OF THE EMBARGO WOULD PREVENT TURKEY FROM FULFILLING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DEFENSE AND THE SECURITY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, AND THAT THE EMBARGO MADE IMPOSSIBLE TURKISH SUBSCRIPTION TO NATO'S LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM. PROMINENCE WAS GIVEN TO THE DPC COMMUNIQUE PARAGRAPH CALLING FOR THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO.

3. OTHER RELATED ARTICLES IN THE WEEKEND PRESS INCLUDED WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAYNUR GOREN'S REPORT IN PRO-GOVERNMENT "MILLIYET" THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN WOULD BE ACTED ON IN THE SENATE FIRST AND THAT SENATOR SPARKMAN WOULD SPONSOR THE REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO. THE ARTICLE DID NOTE THAT THE VOTE IN THE SENATE WOULD TAKE PLACE IN JUNE AFTER THE NATO SUMMIT. IN MAY 21 "MILLIYET" EDITION, GOREN REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS BECOME PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN EFFORTS TO LIFT THE EMBARGO AND THAT THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH VETERANS GROUPS WAS A PART OF THAT EFFORT.

4. CONSERVATIVE "TERCUMAN" REPORTED MAY 22 THAT PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT HAD INFORMED PRESIDENT CARTER THAT IF THE U.S. COULD NOT GUARANTEE THE AVAILABILITY OF U.S. ARMS TO TURKEY, THEN ECEVIT WOULD NOT SIGN ANY SPECIAL DECLARATION AT THE NATO

SUMMIT DESCRIBING THE USSR AS "PROVOKER" IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS.
OTHER PRESS REPORTS NOTED THAT FRANCE, GREECE AND SEVERAL
OTHER COUNTRIES HAD ALSO OBJECTED TO THE WORDING OF THAT
DECLARATION. DILLON

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